



Bradford health workers striking back at NHS privatisation >>Pages 10&11

**WUTHERING  
FIGHTS**

**PETERLOO**  
Judy Cox reviews new book on 1819 massacre >>Pages 14&15

# Socialist Worker

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## DEADLY COST OF TRUMP'S RACISM



**KILLINGS IN US INSPIRED BY PRESIDENT**

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### FLOODING

Could this dam cope with climate catastrophe?

A DAM in Derbyshire holding 1.3 million tonnes of water looked as if it would collapse last week after severe flooding.

Some 1,500 people were evacuated after one of the dam walls started to fall away. The near disaster is a consequence of climate change.

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### NHS



**Boris Johnson's funding plans bad for health**

HEALTH campaigners have said Boris Johnson's promises to inject £1.8 billion into the NHS are not enough. Around £6 billion is needed to fix the problems caused by years of cuts and privatisation.

The announcement comes at the time of a potential snap election.

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### HONG KONG

'The movement is at a critical point'

THERE HAVE been four consecutive days of protest in Hong Kong, culminating in a general strike on Monday. It is a crucial moment. Leader Carrie Lam says that protesters are "fomenting revolution".

An eyewitness account looks at what is happening inside a movement that refuses to be silenced.

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## THE THINGS THEY SAY

### 'Far bigger social issues'

Betting company boss **Kenny Alexander** says gambling addiction isn't so serious

### 'The industry is doing well at looking after its customers'

Alexander continues

### 'It may take a while to get to the sunlit uplands'

Bank of England Governor **Mark Carney** looks at the future of the economy

### 'Lavish the toast with butter and cheddar before grilling until it gets nice and scabby'

**Boris Johnson's** contribution to the Eton cookbook is a bad cheese on toast

### 'If anyone called him a "smelly Turkish bee", they'd be arrested in a dawn raid and sent to prison for racism'

**Jeremy Clarkson** on the Turkish bee (see story right)



# Rich and royals unite to save the planet for nice holidays

THE YOUNGER royals like to foster an image of being progressive fighters for social justice. This was somewhat marred last week by a visit made by prince Harry to join a conference on saving the world.

The conference is run by Google, which sees it as an alternative to world leaders' summits in Davos. Harry gave a passionate speech on climate change—barefoot—according to the New York Post newspaper.

Unfortunately, the scrounger was reported to have flown to the conference by private jet.

The Trees For the Future group said he would need to plant 190 trees to offset the estimated three tons of carbon dioxide this created. Travelling by private jet with five passengers on board would create around ten times more carbon emissions than taking a commercial flight.

The Google Camp is exclusively for the rich and famous—although the guest list is confidential. The rich get plenty of time off from high-level discussions about how to change the world.



Eating to the save the planet

Afternoons are kept free for "golf, spa treatments and relaxation," according to the Daily Mail newspaper.

It's held at the Verdura resort in Sicily, which has two 18-hole golf courses, a tennis academy and one of the largest spa complexes in Europe. Three villas have their own pools. And a private beach is filled with imported white sand.

There is a dock for all the yachts that the rich come flocking in on.

Eric Schmidt of Google cruised there in his yacht Infinity. Guests can eat and drink for free across three restaurants and five bars. And they get handed £200,000 Maserati sports cars to use during the summit. All of which sounds great for tackling climate change.

A "Brexit countdown clock" has been delivered to Downing Street so Boris Johnson can see how long he's got left to leave the European Union.

The clock, which reportedly cost at least £500, will be displayed in Johnson's office.

A spokesperson claimed that the Tories, not us, have paid for it.



James Cleverly and clock

MILLIONS OF people are paying more for their energy because of a government cap that supposedly limits their bills. The capped tariff limits the cost of gas and electricity to £1,254 a year. But this is £303 more than the cheapest fixed-rate dual fuel tariff, which is currently £951.

## Foreign bees not coming over here

AS IT'S the summer, it's time for lots of articles about "foreign" insects invading our green and pleasant land. But last week one of these ran into problems.

A so-called "Turkish" bee—osmia avosetta—was sentenced to death by the British government.

It apparently came to Bristol after travelling in the luggage of a family on their return from holiday in Dalaman.

Officials deemed it a threat to native bee species and ordered it to be destroyed.

But the bee "went missing" before they could arrive.

An expert has



Foreign threat?

concluded that the bee was in fact British.

David Notton, chief bee curator at the Natural History Museum, said nests left in the family's home were consistent with a leafcutter bee.

"The nest of osmia avosetta would be smaller and tidier in appearance," he said.

The nests have been taken off for testing.

## Bungling Barrister Buckland's bluster

NEW TORY justice secretary Robert Buckland is making up for nobody knowing who he is by being offensive and eye-catching.

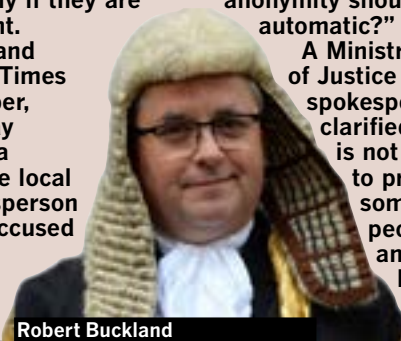
Buckland suggested last week that people accused of serious crimes should stay anonymous until charged—but only if they are important.

Buckland told the Times newspaper, "Let's say you are a reputable local businessperson who is accused of fraud. Your good

name is going to be really undermined by this mere accusation. You are a person of good character.

"That might be a meritorious case for anonymity. Let's say you are a person with a list of previous convictions. Is that a case where anonymity should be automatic?"

A Ministry of Justice spokesperson clarified that it is not "policy" to protect some people's anonymity but not others.



Robert Buckland



## Cop and dog not racist

A COP accused of a racially aggravated attack after his dog bit a Traveller has been cleared.

A jury was told to find PC Paul Birch, of West Midlands police force, not guilty because there was not enough evidence to convict.

Birch had been called to a dispute involving Traveller Bernadette Cash. Her husband Andrew needed treatment after Birch's dog bit him.

The couple were convicted of obstructing an officer. Birch had referred to Andrew as a "gyppo" in a radio message requesting back-up. The Police Federation said the word was "inappropriate" but claimed there was no "link" with the incident.



GOING UP?

**George Osborne** Former Tory chancellor was about to be nominated by Boris Johnson as Britain's candidate to run the International Monetary Fund—but Johnson missed the deadline to propose him

## £3.5 million for Donald Trump

THE Metropolitan Police spent nearly £3.5 million policing Donald Trump's state visit to Britain in June, official figures have revealed.

A Freedom of Information request to the Metropolitan Police showed that its total outlay was £3,419,905 across the three-day visit. Trump also visited Portsmouth during his visit, incurring more costs.

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# Could this dam cope with a climate catastrophe?

by SARAH BATES

**PEOPLE IN Whaley Bridge, Derbyshire, looked as if they faced a catastrophic disaster last week. A dam holding around 1.3 million tonnes of water seemed set to collapse.**

Over 1,500 residents were evacuated after a month and a half's worth of rain fell in just 48 hours on the Derbyshire hills.

Part of the exterior wall of a dam at Toddbrook reservoir started to fall away as a result of the increased pressure.

Barry Rudd, a Whaley Bridge resident and volunteer for the Canal and River Trust—the body responsible for maintaining the dam—described the situation as “tense.”

“My van is laden with gear because we didn’t know what we would need if the dam burst and there was a rescue or clean-up operation,” he said. “We are just waiting and waiting now”.

The fire service, police and army were all drafted in to help with rescue efforts. Some 23 machines frantically pumped out water from the reservoir, which sits directly above part of the town.

Residents were still evacuated when Socialist Worker went to press. Emergency services said the dam would have to be drained to around 25 percent full before people can go home.

## Emergency

People have been forced to stay in emergency accommodation or with friends and family.

And the police said residents weren’t allowed a short visit home to collect medical supplies and pets from their homes.

RAF Chinook helicopters have dropped more than 500 tonnes of aggregate in an attempt to shore up



**THE DAM was close to collapse**



**Firefighters help—but there are less now**

the damaged wall. More than 1,000 sandbags have been dropped on the dam, with concrete poured behind the sandbags to secure the structure.

The dam is around 180 years old, and emergency services say there is a “real risk” it could still collapse and

cause chaos.

Police deputy chief constable Rachel Swann said, “There is a real prospect that the dam could fail, and if it fails it is catastrophic.”

“People would die if they were in that evacuation zone.”

Derbyshire chief fire officer Terry McDermott said that rescue boats have been placed in the region in case of collapse.

But the fire service has less resources to deal with such a disaster, as Tory cuts mean the number of full time firefighters in Derbyshire has fallen by 12 percent since 2010.

Water is being pumped out and diverted into local waterways, which is increasing the risk of flooding in nearby towns.

The army was deployed in Marple,

a town six miles from Whaley Bridge, after fears the River Goyt could flood.

Urgent questions need to be asked about how Whaley Bridge was allowed to get so close to utter devastation.

Climate change is causing weather events to become more extreme and increasingly unpredictable.

The heatwave in July was one insight into how Britain is not ready for the unfolding climate catastrophe.

Whaley Bridge is another example of how urgent the situation is.

It looks as if the town could escape relatively unharmed.

But instead of congratulating itself, the government needs to urgently address shoddy infrastructure and lack of planning that could kill us all.

## No extension for fracking

FRACKING FIRM Cuadrilla is trying to get an extension to carry on fracking past its end of November deadline.

It wants to begin fracking at its Preston New Road site in Lancashire this month.

A condition of the original planning consent detailed that the Cuadrilla was allowed to drill and frack four wells, but it couldn’t take longer than 30 months.

So far Cuadrilla has two wells, known as PNR1 and PNR2.

PNR1 fracked for three months from October 2018.

The operation caused repeated earthquakes and delays throughout.

The fossil fuel firm said that as it has only spent 21 months drilling the well and fracking, it should be allowed extra time.

But it hasn’t said how much extra time it wants.

If it is allowed an extra nine months, it means local residents will face disruption, seismic shifts and pollution until August 2020.

Companies shouldn’t be given extra powers to frack away—all fossil fuels should be left in the ground.



**Cuadrilla fracking**

## Call for a climate shutdown

WITH THE global climate strike only six weeks away activists across Britain are preparing for action.

In Plymouth, at an Extinction Rebellion meeting campaigners organised 14 leafletting sessions. School students there are planning a city centre demonstration alongside trade unionists.

In Lambeth, south London, council workers are demanding that bosses shut the doors for the day so workers can join in the action.

Southwark Trades Council, also in south London, agreed last week to organise a climate strike public meeting in September.

Organising meetings will take place across Britain throughout August and September.

Some upcoming climate strike organising meetings:

- Glasgow—go to [bit.ly/Glasgow20Sept](http://bit.ly/Glasgow20Sept)
- Lambeth [bit.ly/Lambeth20Sept](http://bit.ly/Lambeth20Sept)
- Swindon [bit.ly/Swindon20Sept](http://bit.ly/Swindon20Sept)
- Oxford [bit.ly/Oxford20Sept](http://bit.ly/Oxford20Sept)

## Stop new Thames tunnel

ACTIVISTS ARE taking the fight against the proposed Silvertown Tunnel to the streets this week.

Extinction Rebellion members will join with other local campaigners to “swarm” south east London on Friday. The tunnel is a new planned road crossing



**Tunnel-bound traffic**

under the Thames, which activists say is unnecessary and hugely polluting.

Campaigners are demanding that construction is cancelled, and investment is made into public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure in south east London.

For details of the demonstration go to [bit.ly/Silvertown9Aug](http://bit.ly/Silvertown9Aug)



**We face a future on a scorched planet**

## Global Climate Strike for Future

### Friday 20 September







# US shooting shows fatal results of vile racism

Donald Trump's campaign of hatred has emboldened racists everywhere, argues Gabby Thorpe

**AT LEAST 20 people were killed and a further 26 injured in a mass shooting in El Paso, Texas, last Saturday.**

Shooter Patrick Crusius posted a racist manifesto on the website 8chan hours before he shot people at the El Paso Walmart.

Crusius singled out "race mixing" and said that he related to Brenton Tarrant, who murdered 51 Muslims in the Christchurch mosque shootings in New Zealand in March.

The manifesto said the El Paso shooting was targeting Hispanic people. And Mexico's president Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has confirmed that three Mexicans were among the victims.

President Donald Trump called the shooting a "hateful act". On Monday he called for "strong background checks" for gun purchases and suggested "marrying this legislation with desperately needed immigration reform".

"We must have something good, if not great, come out of these two tragic events", he said.

Trump's racism inspired Crusius to take action. He often tweeted in praise of Trump, including sharing a photograph where someone had spelt out "Trump" using guns.

And his presidency has given confidence to other far right and racist figures to act on their beliefs.

## Spearheaded

His administration has spearheaded a racist assault on Muslims and migrants.

Just this week a new report showed that over 900 migrant parents and children have been separated at the US-Mexico border in the last year.

Trump is ramping up racist rhetoric to play to his base ahead of the 2020 US presidential election.

At a recent rally he inspired chants of, "Send her back" directed at congresswomen Ilhan Omar.

Trump said she and her colleagues Ayanna Pressley, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Rashida Tlaib could "leave" the country. At other

## BACK STORY

**US president Donald Trump is a committed racist**

●During his presidential campaign he said Mexicans were "bringing drugs and crime"

●Under his rule border patrol have cracked down on migrants and locked children into cages

●Trump said the Charlottesville Nazi protest included "some very fine people"

rallies he has referred to Mexican migrants as "rapists and criminals".

No one should be surprised that Trump's words have inspired acts of violent racism.

Democratic senator and presidential candidate hopeful Bernie Sanders called for people to "reject this dangerous and growing culture of bigotry espoused by Trump and his allies".

"Instead of wasting money putting children in cages, we must seriously address the scourge of violent bigotry and domestic terrorism," he said.

Another mass shooting took place in Dayton, Ohio, just hours after the El Paso shooting. At least nine people are confirmed dead—including the shooter—and a further 26 injured.

The Ohio shooting brings the number of mass shootings in the US in 2019 to 252.

As Trump's racist rhetoric worsens ahead of the 2020 election, this is likely to get worse.

Trump's bigotry must be opposed, but this has to go beyond voting him out in 2020.

There needs to be a mass movement that stands against Trump's racism and the far right it boosts.

Change is sorely needed in the US and it must come from below.



## On other pages...

Striking for the NHS in Bronte country >>Pages 10&11



MANY IN London were on their first anti-fascist mobilisation

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

## Anti-racists protest in London against

ANTI-FASCISTS protested against supporters of jailed Nazi Tommy Robinson in central London last Saturday.

Demonstrators gathered at Piccadilly Circus, in defiance of a police order, and marched up towards Oxford Circus where the fascists had assembled.

There were about 400 people on the Nazi protest at its height. It was organised after Robinson was jailed following being found in contempt of court.

The united march brought together two counter-demonstrations. One was organised by Stand Up To Racism (SUTR) and Unite Against Fascism (UAF), and the other by a coalition of groups led by the London Anti-Fascists.

SUTR said that "over 800 anti-fascists" protested.

**March** Chants of, "Whose streets? Our streets," and, "Tommy Robinson in a cell—take your Nazi mates as well," rang out as the march made its way up Regent Street.

It was young and many were on their first anti-fascist protest.

Elizabeth, a student from south London, told Socialist Worker, it was important to "come out onto the streets" when the fascists try to mobilise.

"We have to show them that their views are a minority and what they say isn't alright."

Police blocked the anti-fascist march when Oxford Circus was in sight, but it pushed on through the side streets towards the fascist rally outside BBC Broadcasting House.

Along the way two small bands of "Free Tommy" supporters tried to rush into the crowd to attack anti-fascists.

Isa, another anti-racist protester, told Socialist Worker, "If we don't protest, the other side will take the streets. Their side would be the only image on the television."

"Their fascist and

racist ideas are spreading—and we have to fight them now."

Anti-fascists rallied outside the BBC on Portland Place road, separated from the fascists by police and barriers.

The police tried to kettle protesters and threatened arrests—including of SUTR national officer Julie Sherry—for refusing to go into a small designated pen.

And as cops focused on moving people into the pen, another group of fascists tried to charge into the back of the protest.

The counter-protest ended later in the afternoon as anti-fascists marched off together away from the BBC, chanting as they went. A small group continued to march through the streets after it had dispersed.



A Nazi with conviction

## New army of drones help oust migrants

THE EUROPEAN Union (EU) is pumping £95 million into an army of drones to monitor refugees in the Mediterranean Sea.

There are three contracts between the Frontex border guards and European Maritime Safety Agency, according to the Observer newspaper.

The drones include the Hermes and Heron, which Israel developed to monitor Palestinians in Gaza.

While EU patrol vessels have rescued refugees, their main role is to stop people coming to Europe.

Using drones means the EU doesn't have to rescue anyone. They can inform the Libyan coast guard of a refugee boat's position.

The coastguard can then take them back to the North African country, where they face torture and sexual abuse in internment camps.

This shows that it's not just far right governments that want to clamp down on refugees—it's the EU as a whole.

The EU's solution to the refugee crisis is to strengthen its external borders.

The result is racist murder in the Mediterranean Sea, with the average death rate for migrants attempting to cross at an all-time high of 14 percent.

Refugees are fleeing war, dictatorship, poverty and climate change and in search of a better life.

The only solution is to open the border and let them in safely.

## Nazi Robinson supporters

Roughly half of the Nazis broke away from their main rally outside the BBC.

The breakaway marched up and down Regent Street apparently looking for anti-fascists.

## Shrink

They dispersed after a brief scuffle with police, and the main rally began to shrink.

Some racists tried to attack some Algerian protesters who had arrived nearby.

Protest organisers told the dwindling crowd they would leave "once the police have moved the left".

Over 100 racists marched from the BBC to Whitehall.

When police cleared them from outside Downing Street, they moved across the road to surround a small group of Sudanese people supporting the revolution there.

Racists chanted, "Paedo," and, "England," at the Sudanese protesters. Some told them, "Go back where you come from."

The Sudanese protesters kept singing and chanting in response.

Police eventually moved in and dispersed the racists, and the Nazi march ended.

Weyman Bennett, co-convenor of SUTR, said, "Tommy Robinson has a history of promoting fascist organisations."

"Days like today show the true nature of his supporters—racist and Islamophobic to the core."

Robinson's crew is drastically down from the 15,000 it mobilised last summer.

But the far right continues to feed off state-sponsored racism against Muslims, migrants and refugees—and so the threat remains.

As Elizabeth said, "When you have Donald Trump and Boris Johnson saying racist things, it gives the far right confidence."

"We always have to speak out and do something."

Weyman said, "We stopped Robinson when he was in the English Defence League. We stopped him becoming an MEP."

"We'll stop him from building the racist street movement he craves."

**Nick Clark and Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

## Socialist Worker WHAT WE THINK

# VIOLENCE IN SOCIETY IS DRIVEN BY OUR RULERS

**H**ORRIFIC shootings in the US last weekend showed where our rulers' racism can lead.

Some 22 people died after Patrick Crusius opened fire on people at a Walmart shop in El Paso, Texas, last Saturday. He had posted a racist manifesto online hours before the killings.

El Paso lecturer Jonna Perrillo said, "Communities of colour are under attack. And it comes from the top."

She is right. The shootings follow a series of deeply racist speeches by US president Donald Trump.

His attacks on migrants and Muslims have created a climate where violent racists can flourish.

Trump tried to hide this by putting the blame for the killings elsewhere.

So he called for a clampdown on video games that "celebrate violence". But the people who really celebrate violence are our rulers.

Trump has denounced Mexican migrants as criminals, drug dealers, gang members and rapists.

He has repeatedly referred to immigration as an "invasion". Crusius said he wanted to fight

a "Hispanic invasion" of Texas. In May, Trump asked a rally in Florida how to "stop these people" from crossing the border into the US.

When one person replied, "Shoot them," Trump laughed.

In November last year ABC News identified at least 17 cases where Trump's name was invoked in direct connection with violence or threats of violence.

The victims were from "an array of minority groups—African Americans, Latinos, Muslims and gay men".

It isn't just Trump either. This week Brazil's far right president Jair Bolsonaro called for criminals to "die in the streets like cockroaches". Bolsonaro wants

cops and others who kill alleged criminals to be immune from prosecution. It's a disgraceful call for more violent attacks against poor people.

Rulers preside over a system that is built on violence.

They rely on police, who had shot and killed 519 people in the US by the end of last month, to maintain "order". If they really feel under threat, they will use troops against ordinary people.

Or they will turn groups of ordinary people against each other and even encourage fascist groups to undermine united resistance.

The response to recent protests in Hong Kong hints at how far our rulers will go to defend their interests.

They regularly send ordinary people to fight and die in wars to further those interests.

And they prop up bloody dictatorships and repressive regimes if it suits them.

It is hypocrisy for the brutal warmongers at the top of society—who unleash the most severe savagery—to whine about violence.

We should take no lectures from them. And we should defend the right of ordinary people to resist their system.

So why are they hiding behind European law when they don't want to believe in European law?"

The Tory government and its bigots in the DUP repeatedly say Britain must leave the European Union (EU) because they claim EU legislation is bad for business.

Socialist Worker is against the EU precisely because it is good for business.

But when it comes to workers the government says it can do nothing because the EU stops the state from nationalising. In fact

Harland and Wolff could easily be nationalised, as it was in 1975.

And nationalisation doesn't have to be about bailing out the bosses when they get into trouble. It can be more than a stop-gap until the company can be sold off again.

And it could be a step towards another kind of economy, where different priorities from capitalist competition could begin to govern production.

That means looking to the interests of the occupying workers not the bosses, bankers or the EU.

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## ANALYSIS

NICK CLARK



## Crisis in Israel flows from the occupation

**ISRAELI PRIME minister Binyamin Netanyahu is facing a crisis. In just under six weeks, the racist warmonger will stand in his second general election in a year.**

Netanyahu had to call a snap election in June as he couldn't find enough support in parliament for his government. Now it seems he's worried he may not even have enough support in his own party, the right wing Likud.

Last weekend Likud's candidates were made to sign a loyalty pledge specifically to Netanyahu over WhatsApp. He and his family members had been warning of a "coup" or a plot against him.

"The prime minister and the Likud chairperson, Benjamin Netanyahu, is the sole Likud candidate for prime minister, and there will be no other candidate," it said.

Netanyahu's spokesperson said the pledge marked the collapse of the "plot to replace Netanyahu". But, as one opposition leader Yair Lapid taunted, "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean we're not after you."

In Israel the largest party in parliament usually has to form a coalition with others to make a majority. Likud won the last general election in April. But Netanyahu had to call another one because the nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu party wouldn't join his government.

Now it looks as if the coming election could end with Yisrael Beiteinu—whose leader Avigdor Lieberman wants rid of Netanyahu—calling the shots.

Lieberman has said he might help form a "national unity government" with Likud and its biggest challenger, the Blue and White Party.

But he and Blue and White's leader Benny Gantz have all but explicitly said Netanyahu would have to go.

On the surface it looks as if this stalemate is simply about the horse-trading that goes on between Israel's political parties. Yet underlying it is a profound political crisis over something at the heart of the Israeli state itself—the occupation of Palestine.

### Exclude

Every Israeli government has looked for ways to exclude Palestinians from Israeli society, while denying them a state of their own. They could never have done this without the support of the US, which relies on Israel to protect its interests in the Middle East.

Billions of pounds' worth of US military aid over decades shaped Israel's economy and society into the highly militarised one it is today—one tied to the needs of US imperialism.

Over the past 25 years or so, the US has encouraged the idea of a two-state solution—which promises a Palestinian state, but in reality allows the occupation to continue.

But Israeli settlements are far too established on Palestinian land. And more than 50 years of the occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem has tied the Palestinian economy and society inextricably to Israel's.

In effect, Israel is already creating a single state in all of Palestine. But that's a problem for a state built on the idea that Israel is entitled to Palestinian land where Palestinians must always be a minority.

In the face of this, support for right wing parties that demand the full annexation of Palestinian land and the expulsion of Palestinians has grown. And for most of his career, Netanyahu has relied on the support of these parties to prop up his government in parliament.

He's had to strike a balance between them and the demands of the US. Now that's falling apart.

His only way out of the crisis—Donald Trump's phony "peace deal" which allows the occupation to continue indefinitely—is stalling.

That's partly because the crisis is stopping Netanyahu from forming a government, and partly because there's so much resistance to the deal among Palestinians.

Lieberman—who frequently calls for devastating wars on Palestinians in Gaza—has seen an opportunity to get rid of Netanyahu.

He's willing to work with so-called "centrist" parties such as Blue and White, which oppose Netanyahu's domestic policies but promise no less violence towards Palestinians, to do it. But whatever the outcome of the elections, the crisis won't go away—and neither will the Palestinians.



THE BIG Ride for Palestine sets off

PICTURE: MIKE CUSHMAN

# Tower Hamlets is 'test case' in the right to criticise Israel

**PALESTINE solidarity campaigners are hitting back after an east London council refused to allow a rally in aid of Palestinians because it said it could be antisemitic.**

Officials from Tower Hamlets council refused permission for The Big Ride for Palestine—a charity bike ride—to hold a rally in one of the borough's parks.

Council officials said the event could be antisemitic because the Big Ride's website refers to the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

They said there was a "real risk" that the event could breach the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition (see box).

### Adopt

Labour-run Tower Hamlets council endorsed the IHRA definition last November.

It came after the right whipped up a furore over the party's initial refusal to adopt the example that restricts criticism of Israel.

Chair of Tower Hamlets Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) Sybil Cock told Socialist Worker that campaigners had petitioned the council to also adopt sentences protecting the right to criticise Israel.

These included the right to criticise Israel's founding political ideology Zionism, to advocate boycott, divestment

and sanctions against Israel, and to call it an apartheid state.

But she said Tower Hamlets mayor John Biggs said "he found it offensive that this petition had even been brought".

He assured them that the definition would not be used to restrict campaigning for Palestine.

The council's official explanation for refusing permission for the rally was that speakers might express views that contradicted its policies on community cohesion and



Palestine Solidarity Campaign Tower Hamlets chair Sybil Cock

equality. It didn't mention antisemitism to the event's organisers.

But emails revealed by a Freedom of Information request revealed council officials feared the event would fall foul of the IHRA definition.

### Concerns

One official said there were concerns "not least because of the recent furore within the Labour Party over antisemitism".

Sybil said this was a clear example of how the IHRA definition could have "a chilling effect on campaigning in solidarity with Palestine".

Sybil said campaigners are fighting to get Tower Hamlets council to confirm the right to criticise Israel.

They plan to present another petition, with a demonstration outside.

She said the battle should be a "test case" in how the IHRA definition can be applied and challenged.

"We hope this will have an impact on other councils if they deny PSC or other organisations the right to hold events," she said.

For a longer version go to [bit.ly/THPaISol](http://bit.ly/THPaISol)

## Restricting solidarity

**THIS IS not the first time the IHRA definition of antisemitism has been used to clamp down on Palestine solidarity.**

In 2017 an investigation by Socialist Worker revealed how the University of Central Lancashire used the definition to stop students discussing a boycott of Israel.

And last year Dudley Council suspended one of its workers, Paul Jonson, for writing a Facebook status that called Israel

**"a racist endeavour". The council was later forced to reinstate him after a campaign.**

An example of antisemitism linked to the IHRA definition says it could be antisemitic to describe the existence of the state of Israel as a "racist endeavour".

And calling Israel a racist state, or describing the expulsion and exclusion of Palestinians from Israel as ethnic cleansing, could be seen as antisemitic.



Paul Jonson



**Got a story?**

Email ideas to [reports@socialistworker.co.uk](mailto:reports@socialistworker.co.uk)



# Boris Johnson's NHS funding promises aren't good for health

Boris Johnson has promised a cash injection for the NHS, but years of cuts mean that much more will be needed to make up for the damage done, writes **Tomáš Tengely-Evans**

**HEALTH CAMPAIGNERS** have slammed Boris Johnson's promise of £1.8 billion for the NHS as a "drop in the ocean".

Johnson claimed the cash would mean "more beds, new wards and extra life-saving equipment" on Monday.

And he said that £850 million from the one-off payment would help to upgrade 20 hospitals in England.

But Nigel Edwards, Nuffield Trust health charity chief executive, pointed out that a "staggering £6 billion is needed to clear the backlog of NHS maintenance".

Sally Gainsborough, a Nuffield policy analyst, said that the money had come from an NHS pot of cash that hospitals had been banned from using.

"It's the equivalent of giving someone cash, then banning them from spending it only to expect cheers of jubilation when you later decide they can spend it after all," she said.

An incentive deal saw hospital bosses promised money for repairs if they made cuts.

But annual spending limits meant they couldn't spend this money, making the impact of the cuts worse.

Johnson said the NHS represented the "very best of Britain".

And he claimed that the health service would not be part of any free trade deal negotiated with Donald Trump.

But the Tories have already forced the market into the NHS, meaning US firms already have contracts through local subsidiaries.

## Trade

Johnson is hoping for a round of trade talks with Trump before Britain is set to leave the European Union on 31 October.

A Johnson-Trump negotiated trade deal would simply bolster their access.

The announcement of NHS cash came as Tory officials made preparations for a snap general election.

They fear that Johnson could lose a vote of confidence at the hands of Tory rebels when parliament returns in September.

Another official added, "We have a single-digit majority and we have to be realistic about the chances that a general election is going to happen."

Johnson's majority was slashed to just one after the Lib Dems won a by-election in Brecon and Radnorshire last week.

It was forced on incumbent Tory MP Christopher Davies, who



PROTESTING IN London to protect the NHS from Tory cuts last year

pleaded guilty to expenses fraud, after over 10,000 people signed a recall petition.

Former minister Dominic Grieve this week said MPs had a number of options "including bringing down the government and setting up a new one in its place".

Grieve is hoping for a "national government" backed by "moderate" MPs and big business.

And unfortunately Labour front benchers have said that they are talking to former Tory ministers who are opposed to no deal.

Working with Tories is no answer to problems facing ordinary people.

The alternative is to unite working class people who voted Leave and Remain in a fight to drive out Johnson's government.

## POLICE

### Patel wants more stop and search

TORY HOME secretary Priti Patel said that people should "literally feel terror" of breaking the law.

Her remarks are part of the Tory government's drive to recruit 20,000 more police officers and give them more powers.

She said, "With more police officers out there and greater police presence, I want criminals to literally feel terror at the thought of committing offences."

Patel said that she would allow cops to use the full extent of their power and "make their judgements" including stop and search.

This will mean more black people facing racist harassment at the hands of the police.

The government's own figures show that black people were nine times more likely to be stopped and searched in England and Wales in 2017/18.

Patel, who has previously backed the death penalty, said that the recruitment drive was to show the Tories are the party of "law and order".

## Harrassment

Black people won't just face harassment at the hands of the police under Johnson's government.

Patel's appointment as home secretary sent a message that the Tories are fully committed to the "hostile environment" for migrants.

In another piece for the Daily Mail newspaper Patel said that business would have to "back our own people".

She said last week that the government is looking into a "points-based system" of immigration controls after Brexit.

This would allow businesspeople and some workers, who are deemed to have the right skills and who speak English, to come into Britain.

And it would lock out other workers and make their lives harder once they finally arrive.

Anti-racists have to fight to defend freedom of movement, and the rights of all migrant workers from the Tories' racist assault.

## Households left hard up

**HOUSEHOLDS ON low incomes would find it harder to weather another financial crisis, according to a Resolution Foundation report published on Monday.**

The report said that working class people are still reeling from the last financial crisis and the austerity that followed.

While the welfare state had shielded poor people from some of its effects, Tory cuts meant this was no longer the case.

James Smith of the Resolution Foundation said, "The deep income squeeze that followed the last financial crisis may have been more equally shared than previous recessions. But its depth has had a disproportionate impact on the resilience of lower income households."

"They now have less scope to draw down on savings to weather a further recession than they did after the 2008 crisis."



# India risks nuclear war with attack on Kashmir

India's removal of autonomy for Kashmir is rooted in racism and imperialism, says **Gabby Thorpe**

**INDIA ANNOUNCED** on Monday that it will remove Article 370 from the Indian constitution. This gives the disputed region of Kashmir special status and autonomy over all governance except foreign and defence policies.

Its removal is a result of racism. India's ruling class has roots in Hindu nationalism.

The governing hard right Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s manifesto promised to remove the special status from Kashmir—a predominantly Muslim region.

The BJP, led by Narendra Modi, was re-elected by a landslide in May.

But the crisis in Kashmir is also rooted in imperialism. The British Empire fought to divide Muslims and Hindus in order to maintain control.

When Britain pulled out of India in 1947 it partitioned it between Hindu-majority India and Muslim-majority Pakistan. There was no definite plan for what would happen to the semi-independent state of Jammu and Kashmir.

India and Pakistan have fought over Kashmir ever since, with ordinary Kashmiris suffering as a result. Kashmiris should have self-determination.

## Panic

The move to remove Kashmir's autonomy caused panic. In the run-up to the announcement, authorities cut off internet access and evacuated tourists.

India sent thousands more troops to Kashmir, which is already one of the most militarised places in the world. Public meetings and rallies were banned.

Top politicians in Kashmir have been placed under house arrest to try and prevent any opposition from parliament.

Mehbooba Mufti, former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, said the announcement "marks the darkest day in Indian democracy".

Many people started to hoard

## BACK STORY

**India's government has said it will remove Kashmir's autonomy**

● The move is aimed at further dividing Hindus and Muslims, and should be resisted

● India and Pakistan have fought over Kashmir since Britain withdrew from India in 1947

● Any war between the two states could be fought with nuclear weapons

● Kashmiris should not be pawns in their war games—and they should have self-determination

food, fuel and other supplies.

Groups that have campaigned for independence from India could now escalate their struggle.

Tensions between India and Pakistan have escalated recently. A car bomb attack in Kashmir six months ago led to new threats of war from both states.

On 26 February, just weeks after the bombing, India launched air raids on Pakistan. Any war between Pakistan and India could be fought with nuclear weapons.

India's latest attack on Kashmiri rights sows further division between Hindus and Muslims.

The BJP whips up such divisions to win support.

Its supporters say Muslims in India are the "enemy within" and accuse them of molesting Hindu women and eating cow's meat—an animal Hindus treat as sacred.

Those in the region should unite against the threat of nuclear war.

Kashmiris should have the right to determine whether their state belongs in Pakistan, India or should be an independent nation.

Ordinary people should not be pawns for Indian and Pakistani war games.



**On other pages...**

Strikes and protests rock Hong Kong >>Page 20

**INDIA SENT** thousands more troops to Kashmir in the run-up to its announcement to remove Article 370

## NORTH AFRICA

# Rotten deal puts Sudan revolt at risk

by **NICK CLARK**

**OPPOSITION LEADERS** signed a rotten agreement with Sudan's military rulers on Sunday.

The deal, first agreed last month, would leave the military effectively in control in Sudan for almost two years.

It could allow the ruling military Transitional Military Council (TMC) to regroup against the popular revolution.

Millions of people in Sudan have protested for eight months to win civilian rule and democracy.

They have defied massacres and repression to overthrow

dictator Omar al-Bashir and force the TMC onto the back foot.

But the deal signed between the TMC and the Alliance for Freedom and Change, the main opposition coalition, threatens to undermine the revolt.

It could give the old regime time and space to attack the continuing protests.

Members of the Rapid Support Forces militia shot and killed four school students on a protest over fuel and bread shortages on Monday of last week.

The military attacked protests that followed with tear gas and gunfire.

Students in Sudan protesting in July

## GREECE

# Protests for right to organise

THOUSANDS OF university students, lecturers, teachers and workers in Greece have protested against an attack on the right to organise on campus.

Protesters are resisting an attempt by Greece's new Tory government to abolish "university asylum" which bans

police from entering campuses.

The law is a legacy of an uprising against Greece's dictatorship in the 1970s.

This began with a university occupation in Athens and was crushed when the military invaded the campus.

The law protects the right to organise

politically on campus and it has big symbolic significance in Greece.

The right wing New Democracy government replaced the once-radical left wing Syriza party in elections last month.

The protests show that the new government could face resistance.

## FIGURE IT OUT

**60** percent of young people are out of work in some parts of Western Greece

**50** percent of Greeks aged between 15 and 25 are unemployed

**15** percent of Greeks were classed as living in "extreme poverty" in 2015. That compares to 2.2 percent in 2009, and 8.9 percent in 2011



## Support Bradford NHS fight

I WOULD be grateful if Socialist Worker readers could make a generous donation to the Bradford Unison union health branch's strike fund.

You may have read about the dispute, which involves Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust trying to create a "wholly-owned subsidiary" to run the estates and facilities department.

It would mean the transfer of 600 staff out of the NHS into a company, effectively stripping them of their terms and conditions.

The NHS works best when we all belong to the same team, which is why union members want to remain directly employed by the NHS.

And that's why 300 Unison members voted by 71 percent in favour of strikes.

Porters, cleaners, catering, security and others struck action from 8 July to 15 July, and are currently on a two-week strike.

This dispute is high profile and has significant bearing on the rest of the NHS as it could deter other trusts from considering similar plans.

The strike fund is there to support the lowest paid NHS frontline staff, on £9 an hour.

A day's wage is the difference between paying the rent, paying the bills and putting food on the table so please give generously. See details on pages 10&11.

**Amandeep Singh**  
Unison Bradford health branch secretary

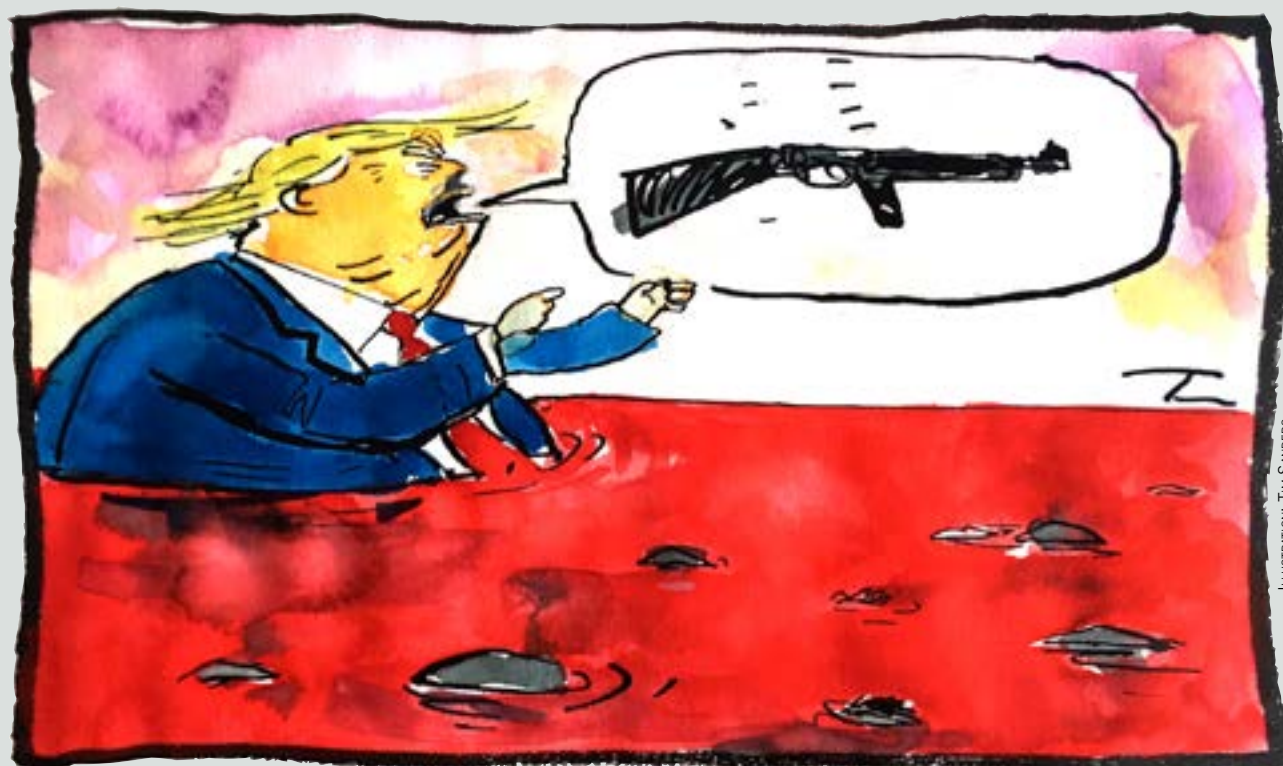


ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

## We should campaign until Chelsea Manning is set free

READERS SHOULD support Chelsea Manning in her refusal to testify to the US Grand Jury.

In 2010 Chelsea Manning was court-martialed for passing on classified army material to WikiLeaks and was given a 35 year sentence. She served seven years—nearly all the first year in solitary confinement, amounting to torture.

But the establishment will not leave her alone. She has been imprisoned again and faces fines of \$1000 a day for refusing to testify again.

Chelsea was serving in Iraq when she realised that prisoners of the US army were being handed over for torture at the hands of the

Baghdad government. Her whistle blowing was a protest against this treatment.

Contrast this treatment with that of another US citizen who handed over classified information.

Former general David Petraeus went on to become Director of the CIA, in which role he divulged sensitive information about ongoing military and intelligence operations.

Albeit he didn't do this for the public good but to enhance the career of his lover at the time, it was still illegal.

Is Petraeus facing years of imprisonment and unpayable fines? No. He receives a military pension of £164,000, holds a prestigious fellowship at Harvard

Kennedy School and is Chair of KKR Global Institute remunerated at over £800,000. If you want to book him to speak he will charge you up to £120,000

Julian Assange faces extradition and indefinite detention in the US.

Edward Snowden is in de facto exile in Russia for exposing the illegal US bulk surveillance programme.

Tony Blair lied resulting in millions of dead and wounded, creating millions of refugees and ruining countless lives.

Let's campaign to hold to account the real perpetrators of violence and inhumanity.

**Miriam Scharf**  
East London

## Nazi Tommy Robinson—a man of many convictions

SURELY GIN Putland's letter last week was a little hard on the jailed Nazi Tommy Robinson, or "2 percent Tommy" as he's known after the European elections. After all, he is a man of conviction.

- 2005—jailed for 12 months for assault.
- 2010—arrested for public order offence.
- 2011—convicted for football hooliganism.
- 2011—jailed for breaching bail.
- 2011—convicted of assault.

- 2011—jailed for Swiss rooftop protest.
- 2013—jailed for travelling on a false passport.
- 2014—jailed for mortgage fraud.
- 2014—convicted for public order offences.
- 2015—recalled to prison.
- 2017—convicted for contempt of court.
- 2018—jailed for contempt of court.
- 2019—sent back to jail for contempt of court.

**John Murphy**  
Stockport

## Campbell leaves a trail of destruction

ALASTAIR Campbell saying that he doesn't want to be a member of the Labour Party anymore is long overdue.

Tony Blair's spin doctor doesn't belong in Labour anymore—and neither do the others who backed the Iraq war.

His "doggy dossier," which was used to justify the war, helped kill a million people in Iraq.

And the only place Campbell should be in the dock, standing trial for war crimes alongside Blair. Jeremy Corbyn should be using the



Blairite spin doctor Alastair Campbell

opportunity to expel all the other Blairites.

Why would Corbyn bat an eyelid over a war criminal who is stupid enough to announce that he voted for the Liberal

Democrats? I wonder if we'll see him join the Lib Dems and reunite with fellow Blairite scumbag Chuka Umunna.

**Clinton Fraser**  
West London

Just a thought...

## Confusion on Corbyn crisis

THE ARTICLE on Jeremy Corbyn and antisemitism (Socialist Worker 31 July) was unnecessarily confusing.

It describes the actions of Labour peers attacking Corbyn without clearly stating their intention is to bring him down.

They have shown no loyalty—their intention is simply to attack Corbyn as the Blairites that they are.

It describes the actions of the Jewish Labour Movement and the Jewish Leadership Council, but there is no explanation of who these organisations are.

Many of their members are not even supporters of Labour. Their views are given more weight in the media than they deserve.

Your conclusion is right, the Labour party must stand up for the Palestinian people if it is to defeat this witch hunt

**Tom and Maureen Topley**  
Essex

## Thatcher's bible on sale

A BIBLE owned by Margaret Thatcher is to be auctioned with a starting price of £10,000.

For that sort of money, the buyer must be expecting a riveting read. Perhaps former NUM miners' union president Arthur Scargill is starring as the devil.

**Eddie Sanders**  
Birmingham

## No to a Tories and the EU

WE SHOULD oppose any Brexit that would be against workers' rights.

But we have to be prepared to free ourselves from the European Union's neoliberal constraints.

**Jim Hutchinson**  
Facebook

## Labour should back Remain

DISILLUSION with Corbyn will feed into apathy or hostility, causing Labour to lose an election, unless he comes out unambiguously in favour of Remain.

Surely the left can see that Brexit is a far right project.

**John Benest**  
On Facebook



# WUTHERING FIGHTS

## Striking for the NHS in Bronte country

by TOMÁŠ TENGYL-EVANS in Bradford

**A** STRIKE BY hundreds of the lowest paid NHS workers in West Yorkshire has become a flashpoint in the fight to stop privatisation.

Bosses are using a new trick to make “savings” and bring in private firms.

They want to transfer porters, cleaners and other support staff to Bradford Healthcare Facilities Management Ltd on 1 October.

This is a “wholly-owned subsidiary” that would have Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust as the sole shareholder.

But the move would be a stepping stone to full-blown privatisation down the line.

Some 300 workers at the Bradford Royal Infirmary and St Luke’s Hospital launched a two-week walkout on Thursday of last week.

It was their second against bosses’ plans to outsource their jobs.

### Patient

The fight matters for workers’ conditions and patient care. Bosses on top salaries want to make low-paid workers suffer from a race to the bottom.

Steve, a Unison union member and porter, told Socialist Worker, “They’re hell-bent on sticking it to us. They’re doing this to the lowest paid when there are plenty of branches at the top of the tree that could be trimmed.”

Workers would be transferred to the wholly-owned subsidiary on NHS wages, terms and conditions under a process known as Tupe.

Bosses had promised to keep their pay and conditions the same for 25 years.

But after the first strike, workers were called into a meeting where

### What you can do

● **Donate to support the strikers.** Make a bank transfer to Unity Trust—sort code 608301, account number 49021215. Make cheques payable to Bradford Health Services Branch and send to Unison Office, Field House, Bradford Royal Infirmary, Duckworth Lane, Bradford BD9 6RJ. You can also make donations via [bit.ly/Bradfordstrike](https://bit.ly/Bradfordstrike)

● **Send a message of support to strikers via the Unison Bradford Health Branch Facebook page**

● **Visit the picket line and take union banners to show your support—picketing takes place between 6am and 2pm**

management admitted it couldn’t legally guarantee this.

Striker Mary said bosses are a “bunch of liars”.

She pointed out that bosses would be able to change workers’ terms and conditions 12 months after jobs are outsourced.

“Our holidays, our pension, our sick pay, and our other terms and conditions—they could all change,” Mary told Socialist Worker.

This is precisely what happened at the Royal Bolton Hospital, where support staff already work for the wholly-owned subsidiary iFM.

When their jobs were outsourced, bosses promised that workers would continue to receive NHS pay rates—but then broke their promise.

It took a 48-hour walkout—and the threat of more action—last autumn to force bosses to pay workers what they were rightfully owed.

**T**HE REAL agenda behind wholly-owned subsidiaries is to make hospitals be run even more like private businesses.

One article from the AC Beacroft law firm, which helps bosses set up wholly-owned subsidiaries, spells this out. “The aim is that it starts to attract private sector experience into the company,” it said. “Surveyors with specialist skills, for example, wouldn’t necessarily be attracted to an estates role in the NHS.”

And hospital bosses hope to make the NHS more attractive for private firms by slashing the wage bill.

Striking porter Jack told Socialist Worker that the plans would lead to a two-tier workforce.

“Management would weigh down on us as much as possible until many could no longer take it,” he said. “They would then start bringing in new staff on lower wages and worse terms and conditions.”

Bosses have tried to sugar the pill by claiming their plan is needed to maintain a high standard of patient



COMING TOGETHER on a strike rally last Friday

PICTURES: NEIL TERRY

care. Porter Joel explained that they claim the “whole purpose of the plan is to save on VAT”.

“The NHS can’t claim back VAT on things it uses, but a private company could,” he told Socialist Worker. “They say the money would go back into the NHS.”

Workers haven’t fallen for it.

As Jack put it, “The management say it’s to improve patient care. But I don’t think so.”

“The 97 percent who voted for strikes don’t think so. The other staff don’t think so—and all the members of the public who are supporting us don’t think so.”

Bosses are motivated by profit, not patients.

At Bradford hospitals, the CQC regulator said that “working more efficiently was a key challenge” to reduce a £7 million deficit. So bosses are looking at how they can turn a profit, alongside pushing through cuts.

David described one scheme where “electricians from the hospital could be used to fix things in schools, and then the hospital could profit”.

“But we’re a hospital, not a DIY centre,” he said.

The idea that bosses care about patients also doesn’t sit well with the fact that they are already “running down” the service.

Porter Alan explained,

“Wheelchairs are a huge problem. When you’ve got to move someone, you end up searching the whole building.

“When one wheelchair has broken, it’s not been repaired or replaced.”

### Resource

And he said the lack of resources can demoralise and divide workers. “You end up having these arguments with other porters saying, ‘No, that’s my wheelchair,’” he said. “It shouldn’t be the case that we have to fight over basic bits of equipment.”

“There are posters in the hospital saying, ‘You are one team’. But behind the scenes, they are trying to separate us.”

It is workers, not bosses, who care about the patients. Strikers are driven by a desire to defend the NHS. As domestic Sayeda told Socialist Worker, “We want to stay in the NHS. But this isn’t just for us—it benefits the public.”

“What would people do if there was no NHS to look after them? We don’t want that to happen.”

NHS trusts already operate as businesses to a large degree. Resources aren’t shared out on the basis of need across the whole NHS.

Instead individual hospitals have to balance the books in the face of Tory budget cuts.

That means bosses are pushed to try and squeeze more out of workers and weigh up what services they can “afford” to provide.

**B**OSSES’ CONTEMPT for workers and the service has added to the anger—and the determination to fight back.

David, a Unison union member and porter, said workers feel they are “run by a management of incompetents and ladder-climbers”.

“Arrogant just sums up their attitude,” he told Socialist Worker. “After the first strike, we had a few comments from managers saying, ‘Disgusting’.

“They don’t like that we’re fighting, that we’re bringing people together, that we’re bringing it to the public’s attention.”

Michael added that workers are fed up with “very untrustworthy managers” bossing them around.

“We’re so top heavy—there are managers, there are deputy managers, there are assistant managers,” he told Socialist Worker. “And they’re all just looking at the money.”

Another porter said management “undervalue” support staff. “They wouldn’t treat surgeons like this,” he said.

The strike has been an inspiring

antidote to bosses’ attempts to divide and demoralise workers. A lively picket line last Thursday was a show of working class unity. Black, white, Asian, Muslim and Sikh workers across departments united to defend their common interests.

And 600 joined a march through Bradford town centre on the second day of the walkout on Friday of last week.

Domestic Jenny summed up the mood saying, “It feels good to be out on the picket line with everyone.”

Solidarity has poured in with large donations from other Unison branches across Yorkshire and from London and Scotland. Many first-time strikers have joined the picket lines.

Alan has worked in the NHS for 42 years but had never struck until this dispute. “It was really difficult for me,” he said. “On the one hand I thought, ‘Don’t join in, you’ve never been on strike, you can retire soon.’

“But the people who would be left would have worse terms and conditions than I had, and it’s the patients who will suffer. So I thought, ‘For God’s sake, stand up—don’t let people walk all over you, don’t let people abuse you’.

Tom, another porter, added, “I wasn’t in the union until all this began. We’ve recruited a lot of people.”

**W**ORKERS know that, if bosses get away with outsourcing their jobs, their colleagues could be next in the firing line.

Unison branch secretary Ami told Socialist Worker, “The transfer could lead to privatisation. Other services, such as pharmacy or community nursing, could be up next.”

A series of successful strikes at Wigan Hospital last summer forced health bosses to drop plans to outsource workers to wholly-owned subsidiaries. And it forced the NHS Improvement regulator to issue guidance telling bosses not to set up any new ones.

But bosses have since gone back on the offensive.

Birmingham and Solihull NHS Mental Health Trust outsourced over 100 workers to a wholly-owned subsidiary at the start of July.

A solid strike by Unison and Unite union members on the eve of the transfer was too late to stop it. And if Bradford bosses push through their attack, it will embolden bosses elsewhere.

But a victory for strikers would also have a wider impact. As porter Tim said, “If we stop it here, they’ll knock it on the head across West Yorkshire.”

Workers are determined and confident. Ami said that management had “softened since the first strike because of its impact”. “We held a members’ meeting and there was a solid vote for more action,” he said.

The strike can boost the battle to push back the selloff of the health service. Their fight shows the best way to take back control from the bosses.

Every trade unionist should shower the Bradford strikers with solidarity to make sure they win.

Workers’ names have been changed



On the picket line



Building support

**“I wasn’t in the union until all this began. We’ve recruited a lot of people”**



## WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

### INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

### REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

### THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

### INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

### THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to [www.swp.org.uk](http://www.swp.org.uk) or phone 020 7840 5602 for more information

### { SOCIALIST WORKER } BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

#### BARNLEY

**From the Nakba to the Great March of Return—how can Palestine be free?**

Thu 15 Aug, 7pm,  
Room 302, The Civic,  
Hanson St,  
S70 2HZ

#### BIRMINGHAM

**Socialism or barbarism—the legacy of Rosa Luxemburg**

Wed 14 Aug, 7pm,  
The Church at Carrs Lane,  
Carrs Ln,  
B4 7SX

#### BURNLEY AND PENDLE

**Why is there still a border in Ireland?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Red Triangle Cafe,  
160 St James's St,  
BB11 1NR

#### CARDIFF

**60 years on from the revolution—where is Cuba going?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Cathays Community Centre,  
Cathays Terrace,  
CF24 4HX

#### CHESTERFIELD

**Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?**

Thu 15 Aug, 7pm,  
Chesterfield Library,  
New Beetwell St,  
S40 1QN

#### COLCHESTER

**Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?**

Thu 29 Aug, 8pm,  
Oyster Room, Hythe  
Community Centre,  
1 Ventura Drive,  
CO1 2FG

#### COVENTRY

**#MeToo—fighting sexism and the system**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
The Golden Cross,  
8 Hay Ln,  
CV1 5RF

#### EDINBURGH

**Too many people? The myth of overpopulation**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
The Strathie,  
17 Iona St,  
EH6 8SG

#### HUDERSFIELD

**Repression and resistance—where next for the Sudanese revolution?**

Wed 14 Aug, 6.30pm,  
Brian Jackson House,  
2 New North Parade  
(near both train and  
bus stations),  
HD1 5JP

#### HULL

**Why is capitalism addicted to plastic?**

Thu 22 Aug, 7pm,  
Cafe Licious,  
104 Cottingham Rd,  
HU6 7RZ

#### LANCASTER AND MORECAMBE

**The Russian Revolution—lessons for today**

Thu 15 Aug, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Meeting House Lane,  
LA1 1TX

#### LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

**Versailles and the imperialist carve up after the First World War**

Thu 15 Aug, 7pm,  
The Swarthmore  
Education Centre,  
2-7 Woodhouse Square,  
LS3 1AD

#### LONDON: HACKNEY

**With the media behind him—how can we beat Boris?**

Thu 15 Aug, 7.30pm,  
The Round Chapel,  
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner  
Lower Clapton Rd),  
E5 0PU

### SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS



PROTESTERS IN New York after the Stonewall Riots

## 50 years after Stonewall—why do LGBT+ people still face violence?

#### ABERDEEN

Mon 12 Aug, 6pm,  
The Snug,  
Ma Cameron's,  
6-8 Little Belmont St,  
AB10 1JG

#### BRIGHTON & HOVE

Thu 15 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
Ship St,  
BN1 1AF

#### DUNDEE

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Dundee Voluntary Action,  
10 Constitution Rd,  
DD1 1LL

#### GLASGOW

Thu 15 Aug, 7pm,  
Avant Garde,  
33-44 King St,  
Merchant City,  
G1 5QT

#### LONDON: HARINGEY

**Fashion and capitalism—what will we wear to the revolution?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
St John Vianney Church Hall,  
386 West Green Rd  
(corner Vincent Rd),  
N15 3QH

#### LONDON: NEWHAM

**Rebellions, disobedience and arrests—what is the role of the police?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7pm,  
Stratford Advice Arcade,  
107-109 The Grove  
E15 1HP

#### LONDON: SOUTH

**Race, class and identity**

Wed 14 Aug, 7pm,  
Vida Walsh Centre,  
2b Saltoun Rd  
(near Effra Rd, facing  
Windrush Square),  
Brixton,  
SW2 1EP

#### LONDON: SOUTH EAST

**Boris, bluster and Brexit—how do we kick out the Tories?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7pm,  
Deptford Lounge,  
9 Giffin St, Deptford,  
SE8 4RH

#### LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

**The Peterloo Massacre—the fight for democracy and freedom**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Weavers Community Forum,  
10 Shacklewel St,  
E2 7EG

#### LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

**60 years on from the revolution—where is Cuba going?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
William Morris  
Community Centre,  
6-8 Greenleaf Rd,  
Walthamstow, E17 6QQ

**LONDON: WEST & NORTH WEST  
Can there be a socialist in the White House?**

Thu 15 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Woodlane Community Centre,  
78 White City Cl,  
Shepherd's Bush,  
W12 7DZ

#### LUTON

**Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Stockwood Hotel,  
41-43 Stockwood Crescent  
(enter via London Rd car park),  
LU1 3SS

**MANCHESTER: CENTRAL  
Women's liberation in the 21st century**

Wed 14 Aug, 7pm,  
Friends Meeting House,  
6 Mount St,  
M2 5NS

#### NEWCASTLE

**Mass protests in Hong Kong—where is Chinese state capitalism going?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7pm,  
Floor 2, Commercial  
Union House,  
39 Pilgrim St,  
NE1 6QE

#### NORWICH

**Labour and antisemitism**

Wed 21 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Vauxhall Centre,  
Johnson Place,  
NR2 2SA

#### PORTSMOUTH

**Is our diet destroying the planet?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Somerstown  
Community Centre,  
River's St, PO5 4EZ

#### SCARBOROUGH

**The left case against the EU with Costas Lapavistas and Alex Callinicos—film screening**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Tap and Spile,  
94 Falsgrave Rd, YO12 5AZ

#### SHEFFIELD: CITY CENTRE

**Trump and imperialism—could he start a war with Iran?**

Thu 15 Aug, 7pm,  
Central United  
Reformed Church,  
60 Norfolk St  
S1 2JB

#### SOUTHAMPTON

**Policing migrants—why does capitalism need borders?**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Central Baptist Church Hall,  
Devonshire Rd, SO15 2GY

#### SWANSEA

**The 1911 Llanelli rail strike**

Thu 15 Aug, 7pm,  
Llanelli Rural Council,  
Vauxhall,  
Llanelli, SA15 3BD

**WOLVERHAMPTON AND WALSALL**

**Nina Simone—voice of resistance**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.15pm,  
Light House,  
Suite 16, Chubb Bldg,  
Fryer St, WV1 1HT

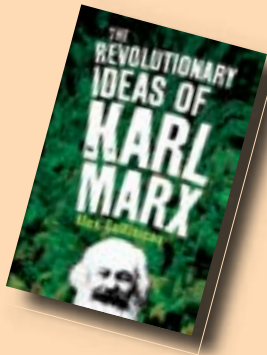
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**The Peterloo Massacre—the fight for democracy and freedom**

Wed 14 Aug, 7.30pm,  
Sea Horse Hotel,  
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# Muckraking political thriller that asks a deep question

The Candidate uncovers the shady side of politics in a way that has us both rooting for a corrupt leader and revelling in his downfall, says **Simon Basketter**

**THE CANDIDATE** is a tense, cynical and angry film.

Manuel Lopez Vidal (Antonio de la Torre) is an up-and-coming regional political player. His skill as a party fixer has put him on a fast track to the top on the national stage.

The film opens up about the way things unfold in political spheres, working as a wake-up call for dirty political schemes. It is a character study that exposes a shamelessly corrupt and tenacious snob.

Recordings of compromising phone conversations are leaked. Suddenly the easy life of the politician is jeopardised by an investigation that can send him to jail.

He would've been happy to remain a useful cog in a dirty machine. But we come to share the "arrogant bastard's" bitter goals. Shunned by his party and former cronies, all of whom are complicit in the corruption, he decides to take revenge.

This doesn't particularly cover new ground in the shadier tactics of politicians. But it is very well acted, and well-meaning and pointed in its efforts to denounce obsession for power.

The sense that government is one big con directing money into already well-lined pockets may not be a full explanation of politics. But it shows much more insight than most news media output.

The movie's look riffs on the cold, impersonal stylishness of the wealthy and the spaces they occupy. Stark, expensive corporate surfaces reflect only the culture of money. Fancy restaurants and their bathrooms are where politics and bribes are decided.

## Seductive

The film's glossy sheen is seductive, as is Manuel, even as we know he's part of the problem. We're able to simultaneously root for the hero and revel in his downfall.

We are not left simply cheering the hero—bigger questions are asked, better than many movies are able to pull off.

US cinema in the early to mid-1970s produced a spate of conspiratorially minded thrillers. They tapped into a feeling the state should be mistrusted and was corruptly working against the population.

They tended to end with a sense that there was little you could do.

In recent years European filmmakers have been making movies about political corruption which pose in a way the more interesting question, "So what are you going to do about it?"

The Candidate doesn't answer that, but it asks it powerfully.

The Candidate, directed by Rodrigo Sorogoyen. Out now

## Theatre



ALFRED ENOCH as Kaelo in *Tree*—an immersive, interactive play

PICTURE: MARC BRENNER

## A tree-riffic play about South Africa

### TREE

Produced by Young Vic, Manchester International Festival and Green Door Pictures.

At the Young Vic, London, until 24 August. Tickets from £10

**TREE**, BY Idris Elba and Kwame Kwei-Armah, is an incredible immersive experience.

From the minute you walk in you are involved in the story, with the cast encouraging you onto the stage to dance with them. As the play unfolds it tells the story of Kaelo—played by

Alfred Enoch. He embarks on a journey to his parent's homeland of South Africa to try and discover more about his family's history.

The audience is continually involved throughout the play. Cast members frequently walk through the audience and pull members of the crowd on stage at different points.

In protest scenes placards are handed out to audience members while the action continues on stage, making it feel as if you are really there. The play shows the raw horrors of South African

apartheid and the long lasting effect it has had on not only the people but also the land.

The play emphasises how the land on Kaelo's grandmother's farm—and land in general—cannot be truly owned by one person because it has such a history.

In the last scene a tree is built up from the stage, and Kaelo declares that the land will be given back to the people.

*Tree* is an amazing experience that I would thoroughly recommend it.  
**Molly Docherty**

## EXHIBITION

### UNREFORMED: WALLPAPER AND DESIGN DIVERSITY

Whitworth Gallery, University of Manchester  
From 17 August

IN THE middle of the nineteenth century wallpaper design suddenly became diverse.

English manufacturers began to excel at the quick production of affordable wallpapers. This resulted in a dramatic explosion of choice.

Design Reform was a movement that wanted to control the quality of English design.

These mostly male designers, writers and MPs had a lasting effect on the way museums and art



19th century wallpaper showroom

schools taught about good design.

Ultimately the exhibition is a celebration of their failure to control the diversity of design that was available.

## EVENT

### LEEDS WEST INDIAN CARNAVAL: THE EARLY YEARS

Leeds Central Library  
Wed 14 August 6-7pm  
Free entry. Admission by ticket.  
Phone 0113 378 5005

DISCOVER THE organisers, costume makers, designers, musicians and stories behind the formative years of Europe's oldest West Indian carnival.

From its birth in 1967 to its development throughout the 1970s, Danny Friar explores the early years of the Leeds West Indian Carnival in this fun and interactive presentation.

## HISTORY

### CITY TOUR—NEWCASTLE'S CAMPAIGN FOR THE VOTE

Grainger Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne  
Sun 18 August 2:30pm  
Tickets: £5, or £3 over 60s.  
Meet at Grey's Monument, finish at Central Station

THE WALK commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester.

It explores the part played by residents from the Newcastle region demanding universal suffrage.



**T**HERE was no “Battle of Peterloo”—there was an atrocity. It took place 200 years ago but still inspires an anger that is expressed brilliantly in a new history by Robert Poole.

There was a riot at Peterloo but it was not the crowd that rioted—it was the forces of order.

On 16 August 1819 a crowd of tens of thousands of peaceful, if defiant, men, women and children, was mown down without warning or provocation.

The perpetrators were the Salford and Manchester Yeomanry, special constables armed with truncheons and hussars who used their horses as weapons.

The Yeomanry sharpened their sabres specially for the occasion.

Within a few minutes at least 17 people were killed and 700 seriously injured, among them many women and children.

The casualties were inflicted face to face with the “forces of order” attacking the injured and chasing their victims through streets as they tried to escape.

Peterloo was, Poole rightly insists, an atrocity committed to silence a militant working class movement, sanctioned at the highest level of the British government.

The massacre was not only the bloodiest political event in 19th century Britain, it was also the only one witnessed by national and regional newspapers.

Poole has placed moving eyewitness accounts within a wider explanation of the formation of the blood-spattered British state.

Just four years before Peterloo, the British army emerged victorious from 22 years of war against France.

#### Mobilised

Some 800,000 men, a fifth of the adult male population, were mobilised from Britain.

The war left a country wracked by hunger and grief, and a British establishment, as Poole says, “at its most established”.

The “Old Corruption” as reformer William Cobbett named it was an iron-fisted imperial power.

Reform leader Henry Hunt declared, “The war was carried on, not to preserve this country from the horrors of the French Revolution.

“It has been from the beginning a war against the principles of liberty.”

The experience of war fuelled demands for reform and for the vote for all taxpayers.

Living conditions in post-war Manchester, the cradle of industrialisation, shocked visitors.

Falling wages, rising prices and insecure work left families



A SCENE from Mike Leigh's 2018 film *Peterloo*, showing crowds rallying before the massacre

# THE REAL STORY OF PETERLOO

The Peterloo massacre exposed our rulers’ brutality. But a new history also shows how the workers’ movement was militant and inclusive from its birth, writes Judy Cox



Henry Hunt

on the brink of starvation. The hated Corn Laws, introduced in 1815, banned the import of cheap grain.

Food rioters’ common slogan, “Better to be hanged than starved,” added legitimacy to demands for political reform.

The reform movement demonstrated great ingenuity in negotiating repressive laws and police spy networks. Petitioning was legal and helped create organisation. In March 1817 a teenage weaver, John Bagguley,



**The Yeomanry sharpened their sabres specially for the occasion**

organised the Blanketeers’ March to London to petition the king for reform.

He declared to the 10,000 people gathered in St Peter’s Field, “I am a Republican, a Leveller, and will never give it up till we have established a republican government.” Hundreds of marchers were arrested.

The spring of 1818 saw a wave of strikes across Lancashire. Poole pays tribute to the workers who staged

processions and collections that maintained solidarity between very different groups of workers.

Reformers united their campaign with the strikes, welcoming male and many female spinners and weavers into the reform movement.

The strikes won important concessions, but many strike leaders and reformers were arrested. Free market economics were exposed as dependent on political authoritarianism, as Poole points out.

Home secretary Lord Sidmouth rejected attempts by Lancashire reformers to petition the king, in a violation of an ancient right.

Reformers responded by launching a hugely effective mass platform campaign, moving from the politics of petitioning to the politics of confrontation.

Mass meetings attracted around 25,000 people in Birmingham and 50,000 in London’s Smithfield, where Henry Hunt made common cause with the Irish campaign for independence from Britain.

Female reform societies grew in confidence and militancy.

In June, a meeting of delegates from local reform societies in Oldham issued a statement that Poole described as a “potent fusion of economic and political demands”.

**T** PROCLAIMED, “The labouring part of the people of this country cannot long preserve their existence: and if they must die either by starvation or in defence of their rights, they cannot hesitate to prefer the latter.”

This was the build-up to a plan for a mass gathering in Manchester’s St Peter’s Fields, to be addressed by Hunt. This event would become known as the Peterloo Massacre.

August was the middle of the annual Wakes Holiday. People setting off for the long trek into Manchester from surrounding villages and towns were in festive mood.

Many wore their Sunday best and carried olive branches to demonstrate their peaceful intentions.

They marched in disciplined formation, carrying colourful banners embroidered with slogans such as, “Unity and Strength” and “Liberty and Fraternity,” accompanied by pipes and drums.

Large numbers of women joined the crowd, some in their own contingents.

The female reformers of Oldham carried a banner with the slogan, “Let us die like men, and not be sold like slaves”. The women of Royston demanded “Annual Parliaments and Universal Suffrage.”

Irish songs were played to greet the green flags born by contingents of Irish weavers.

By midday the huge crowd was anticipating speeches

by radicals including Hunt and Mary Fildes from the Manchester Committee of Female Reform.

When Hunt stood up to speak, the 40,000-50,000-strong crowd roared its approval. At this moment magistrates issued a warrant for his arrest.

They were watching events from a first-floor window, aided by a pair of opera glasses.

From his vantage point on the hustings, Hunt could see what others in the crowd could not. He paused in mid-flow as he saw a group of cavalry charging into the densely-packed crowd.

#### Sliced

They sliced indiscriminately at men, women and children as they tried to get to the speakers’ platform.

Within minutes, people were sabred, trampled and crushed. Screams echoed across the square.

The Manchester Guardian described how “the women seemed to be the special objects of the rage of these bastard soldiers”.

Mary Fildes was slashed by a sabre after her dress caught on a nail as she tried to escape.

Those returning to the square later found it strewn with shoes, shawls, hats and bonnets, as well as bodies.

The injured were turned away by doctors unless they vowed to stop agitating for reform. Those arrested described their cruel treatment in petitions later submitted to the courts.

Poole gives many moving examples. Heavily pregnant Elizabeth Gaunt was dragged from a carriage and beaten by special constables before being thrown into jail and suffering a miscarriage.

Yet people remained defiant. Samuel Bamford found his wife Jemima, who had seen a woman crushed to death while she was hiding in a cellar.

Together they found their nine year old daughter Anne and set off to march home to Middleton.

Bamford recalled, “I rejoined my comrades, and forming about a thousand of them into file, we marched off to the sound of fife and drum, with our only banner waving, we re-entered the town of Middleton.”

Riots broke out in working class areas of Manchester and protesters tried to reclaim flags



An illustration showing the massacre at Peterloo (top). In the aftermath, workers organised meetings to continue their resistance (above)

captured by the Yeomanry. The turn to lethal violence occurred in the context of establishment fear of a rising reform movement. The authorities organised a cover-up.

At official inquests, the dead were found to have wantonly put themselves in harm’s way.

There was no official death toll, and many died slowly, out of sight and unrecorded.

Workers responded with a wave of huge solidarity protests.

The government responded with the repressive Six Acts, but only succeeded in pushing the movement underground.

It erupted again in the reform riots of 1832, in Chartism and in the women’s suffrage campaign.

At its birth, the English working class movement was creative, militant and inclusive.

Poole’s history is the book those who protested at Peterloo—and those who continue to oppose the same vicious ruling class today—deserve.

#### READ MORE

● **Peterloo—The English Uprising** by Robert Poole, £25

● **Rise Like Lions—The History and Lessons of the Peterloo Massacre** by Mark Krantz, £2

● **The Brutal History of Peterloo** bit.ly/brutalPeterloo

● **The Condition of the Working Class in England** by Frederick Engels, £12.99

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**FOCUS ON ENVIRONMENT**

## Can Marxism help us to save the planet?

Alistair Farrow explains how the revolutionaries Marx and Engels looked at humans’ interaction with the natural world



WAS MARX green?

understood the development of human societies.

The idea of constant change is at the heart of both theoretical frameworks. This stood in contrast to conservative ways of understanding the environment that see nature as static.

One bourgeois ideological understanding of nature portrays it as a constant, unsullied thing that exists independently of humanity.

It is to be enjoyed or exploited, not interacted with in a dynamic way—even if this is the real relationship.

Marx and Engels saw human society as riven with contradictions and conflict. These contradictions are everywhere.

For instance, there is no profit to be made on a dead planet. Yet capitalists continue to plunder and burn fossil fuels because they are gripped in a system of competition that pits them against each other.

**“There is no profit to be made on a dead planet, yet capitalists continue to plunder**

If BP got rid of its carbon-based business it would go to the wall as its competitors cashed in.

So the death-march of environmental destruction tramps on. Similar contradictions are found everywhere in capitalist society.

Marx identified the working class as the force that can resolve these contradictions.

Workers create value in the system and are robbed of it almost simultaneously. This puts them in a uniquely powerful position.

#### Rift

In Capital’s third volume, Marx argued that capitalism creates “an irreparable rift in the independent process of social metabolism, a metabolism prescribed by the natural laws of life itself”.

This means that the savage social processes that capitalism has unleashed separates humans from nature. These processes subordinate both the natural world and humans’ interaction with it to the drive for profit.

Capitalism reduces the natural world to something which is a source of either profit or bucolic fantasy.

The fight to limit the effects of climate change must be linked to the fight against capitalism. Otherwise the drive to profit will create yet more “unforeseen effects” that ravage the planet, and the people that create those profits too.



# Civil service strikers plan solidarity visit

by NICK CLARK

**STRIKING** cleaners and caterers at government offices in London and Liverpool are set to link up their fights over low pay and outsourcing at a rally next week.

Workers at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Beis) on indefinite strike were planning a trip to Liverpool on Tuesday of next week.

They're going to support the cleaners at HMRC tax offices there who were due to walk out next week from Monday until Wednesday.

Strikers from both cities plan to march and rally together in Liverpool city centre.

It's the latest step in a growing fight across the civil service, waged by members of the PCS union.

## Demanding

HMRC cleaners are demanding bosses at private company ISS pay them £10 an hour, while those at Beis want £10.55 from ISS and Aramark. Both sets of work-



**STRIKERS WILL** continue to fight despite bosses not coming to the table

PICTURE: PCS

ers ultimately want to be brought back in house.

Beis striker Joshua told Socialist Worker, "We are going to support them and share our experience—to show them they are not alone and we are not alone."

"We are in it together. We

want to tell them our struggles are their struggles—and that they should stand firm and fight until they win as we are doing."

The workers at Beis entered the fourth week of their strike on Monday of this week. Strikers say bosses

from ISS and Aramark still haven't come to the table. But that won't stop them fighting.

"We'll continue fighting—we're strong," striker Rita told Socialist Worker.

Joshua said bosses "don't want to give us the wages, terms and conditions that the

other workers employed by Beis have. They are making a lot of profit."

"Some people have been working here for two decades three decades," he said. "But when a new employer takes over, we start afresh. So you don't have a future. We're

still not even getting the London Living Wage and our long service doesn't matter."

But he explained that strikers are standing firm, and are using the time to train as union reps.

## Learning

"We're learning about employment law and how you can represent people. It's very important because when people weren't doing anything they became restless, but when there are activities like that they keep us together."

"And we'll know our rights. If you know your rights you are more confident in the workplace and no one can bully you as they were doing before. Now people have learned their rights, and how the fight and defend them."

He added, "We get nervous sometimes but we know we have the union backing us. We're all happy. Until we get some positive feedback we're not giving up."

"We're all positive, encouraging each other."

HMRC Cleaners Strike Rally, 12pm Tuesday 13 August, Liverpool Lime Street station

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# HS2—the high speed rail that's a slow speed fail

As Boris Johnson plans HS3 in the north, Sarah Bates says the Tories' high speed rail projects are about one thing only—making money for the bosses

**EVERYONE'S** fed up with slow, unreliable, regional rail lines. Privatised operators seem to care more about keeping ticket prices high than making sure we can travel on trains that run on time, don't get cancelled, and aren't overcrowded.

The service on Northern Rail has been so bad for so long that even former Tory transport minister Chris Grayling—champion of the private rail firms—said the operator could lose the franchise.

But the solution isn't, as prime minister Boris Johnson promised recently, HS3—a high speed rail link between Leeds and Manchester.

Just look at HS2—the shambolic high speed rail link between Birmingham and London.

Alongside the much-delayed Crossrail, HS2 was supposed to signal a new dawn in British transport.

But last month, HS2 Ltd boss Allan Cook had to admit that the project wouldn't be completed within its £56 billion budget. He said up to a further £29 billion was likely to be needed.



HS2 HAS turned into a white elephant for the Tories sucking up endless money

## Skyrocket

It's a huge increase from the original budget of £32 billion—and with years of construction left, costs are likely to skyrocket even further.

The spiralling costs are leaving many—including some Tory MPs—doubting whether the project is worth it. The Tories are split on this question but Johnson has vowed to press on with plans.

He's commissioned a review by former HS2 chairman Douglas Oakervee. "I'm going to hesitate for a long time before scrapping any major infrastructure project", he said

last week. Despite the hugely inflated budget, and years of delays, the project is slowly progressing. Some 900 properties worth almost £600 million have been bought to allow for construction.

In north west London, work has begun on a key HS2 station in Old Oak Common where the old train depot has been demolished to make way for a new station.

Planners say the station will be an interchange between HS2 and Crossrail and around 250,000 will

pass through Old Oak Common every day. Major redevelopment has also begun in Euston—including evictions, felling 100 trees and tens of thousands of bodies exhumed and relocated.

The final HS2 line is set to look like a "Y", with two lines branching off at Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester. But there's still no legislation for construction past Birmingham.

It was supposed to be a jewel in the crown for British transport. But instead it's turned into a white

elephant for the Tories—sucking up endless money but too expensive to abandon.

It is beyond doubt that major investment is required in public transport. But all HS2 has done is allow construction bosses to trouser wads of cash, while existing train lines are left to wrack and ruin.

## What's your story?

Email with your ideas  
reports@socialistworker.co.uk

## Who is making a fast buck?

**THE ONLY** winners in the HS2 debacle are the private firms that have been handed billions of pounds of public money.

In July 2017, some 11 companies were chosen to undertake the first significant HS2 building work.

Some firms created "joint ventures" to bid for contracts.

One joint venture had firms Carillion, Kier and Eiffage winning two HS2 contracts worth about £1.34 billion.

Carillion, which employed about 19,000 people in Britain, collapsed in January 2018.

But both contracts were awarded after Carillion's financial difficulties were public knowledge.

One person who won't be worrying is Mark Davies—the head of Carillion's infrastructure division when it collapsed.

He's now head of a joint venture between construction firms Balfour Beatty and Vinci—which has won £3.8 billion in HS2 contracts.

HIGH  
SPEED  
RAIL

The National College

## A quick name change needed

**IS** the slow progress of HS2 giving high speed trains a bad name?

Some at the National College for High Speed Rail seemed to think so.

It's set to be renamed the National College for Advanced Transport and Infrastructure after only signing up 96 students in 2018.

Minutes from a board meeting said several members saw the name as a "limiting factor" for the college.

Not that college bosses will be too worried—an extra £4.5 million in grants has been promised by the Department for Education to make up an expected shortfall over seven years.

# There's no magic bullet train to stop climate disaster

**HIGH SPEED** rail is often sold as an environmentally-friendly travel option, but what are its green credentials?

HS2 claims that it "aims to be one of the most environmentally responsible infrastructure projects delivered".

The key question is carbon emissions.

High levels of carbon in the atmosphere have caused Earth to heat up—causing catastrophic climate change.

Travelling by rail lets off less carbon emissions

than travelling by air or road. But HS2 won't actually reduce the demand for flying.

The proportion of flights from London to Manchester or Leeds is tiny.

Investment in high speed rail services that go further afield, such as Aberdeen, Exeter or the Channel Islands, would actually address the hugely-polluting aviation industry.

For HS2 to be carbon friendly, it would need to involve millions of people

ditching cars or planes.

But instead, it's likely to see passengers transferring from slower trains to the new high speed line—which emits significantly more carbon.

HS2 bosses emphasise the environmental case when it suits them—but the driving force behind the project is the "economic case".

They focus on how the new services will mean "reduce costs to business and improve productivity". And they give examples about how

travelling to other cities for business will get so much easier.

So HS2 is envisioned as a commuter train, not as an alternative to air travel.

Major investment needs to be poured into the British transport system. This doesn't just mean new train lines, but improvements to the existing ones.

For instance, many train tracks were unable to cope with the heatwave last month and the flooding that came just

days after. But HS2 won't address the problems faced by people struggling to get to work on rail replacement services.

Coping with a hotter world with more extreme weather events will require a different transport network.

This would mean a huge programme of publicly owned infrastructure.

High speed rail could fit into that as a genuine alternative to air travel—not as something designed and built to serve business.



## IN BRIEF

**Road workers say no to new contracts**

ROAD maintenance workers in Hertfordshire are balloting for strikes over “sign or be sacked” contracts.

The Unite union members work for Ringway Infrastructure Services and replace traffic bollards and damaged railings for Hertfordshire county council.

The union accused bosses of “bully boy tactics” after they made it clear workers would be transferred onto inferior contracts. The ballot closes on 21 August—workers should vote for strikes to stop these attacks.

**Ballot for strikes at St Mungo's charity**

SOME 500 workers at homelessness charity St Mungo's are set to be balloted over strikes

St Mungo's supports homeless people across London and the South of England.

Workers, who are members of the Unite union, are worried about management plans to replace experienced workers with lower paid assistants. Unite is mounting a campaign to “safeguard the jobs and the professional standard of its members”.

**Workers feel their power in Yorkshire**

WORKERS AT Drax power station in North Yorkshire have voted to accept a new two year pay deal.

Almost 400 Unite union members voted by a large majority to accept, after threats of strikes won an improved offer.

They will receive a 2.8 percent increase for 2019 and a 3 percent increase for 2020.

**Wilko workers don't like weekend work**

THOUSANDS OF Wilko supermarket workers are balloting for strikes after the company tried to force them to work weekends.

Around 2,000 GMB union members at two Wilko distribution centres in Magor, Wales and Worksop, Nottinghamshire are affected.

**Asda bosses try to impose contracts**

THE GMB UNION is set to stage a mass protest in Leeds after Asda attempted to impose new “punitive” contracts onto workers.

The protest is set to take place at 12 noon in Leeds City Centre on Wednesday of next week.

Gary Carter, GMB National Officer, said, “This demonstration will send a loud and clear message to Asda that however much pressure management has put on staff to sign, workers believe the contract is still not good enough.”

## ROYAL MAIL

**Postal workers walk out over bullying by bosses**

ROYAL MAIL postal workers in Haverfordwest, west Wales, staged a brief unofficial strike on Tuesday of last week.

Their CWU union said the walkout at the Merlins Bridge delivery office was over “allegations of bullying from a manager”.

CWU general secretary

said, “Haverfordwest delivery office members have walked out in support of a colleague.”

He called on his Twitter followers to send solidarity.

The strike was the latest in a long series of unofficial walkouts over bullying and harassment at Royal Mail workplaces across Britain.



POSTAL WORKERS outside the Haverfordwest delivery office

## BENEFITS

**Day of action against hated Universal Credit**

by SADIE ROBINSON

ACTIVISTS JOINED a day of action against the hated Universal Credit (UC) benefit on Thursday of last week. The action, involving 63 events, was called by the Unite union.

Campaigners held rallies, stunts, leafleting and petitioning sessions and other events in several boroughs across London.

There were also events in Cambridge, Norwich, Doncaster, Sheffield, Brighton, Salford, Southampton and many other towns and cities.

**Hard**

The day of action follows a survey of over 1,000 UC claimants by Unite which found that over four fifths of parents said they find it hard to make ends meet over the school holidays.

Claimants said they had been driven into debt or forced to rely on food banks. A



Saying no to Universal Credit in Doncaster

PICTURE: NEIL TERRY

quarter had taken out a payday loan.

Some 69 percent of parents had skipped meals and 52 percent said they couldn't afford to pay for school trips.

There are currently more

than 1,700,000 people claiming UC in England and this is set to rise as the benefit is rolled out across the country.

UC replaces six other benefits and leaves most claimants worse off.

## CIVIL SERVICE

**Workers at benefit offices ballot for strikes**

INDUSTRIAL ACTION ballots in three Universal Credit (UC) service centres were set to close at noon on Friday of this week.

Members of the PCS union at UC centres in Wolverhampton, Walsall and Stockport are fighting over workload and staffing levels.

The workers at the centres manage people's claims for the UC benefit.

But they say poor levels of staffing mean they spend too much time answering telephone calls, and not enough time managing their caseloads.

This causes a backlog and delay in cases being assessed—and misery for claimants.

Workers at the centres in Walsall and Wolverhampton



PCS union members in Wolverhampton strike in March

have already struck this year. Their demands include 350 new staff members, and a limit of 30 calls a week for case managers.

The workers in Stockport want 100 new staff members and a limit of 30 calls a week.

Meanwhile, workers at a benefits office in south

London, were voting on whether to strike against the closure of their office as Socialist Worker went to press on Tuesday.

The members of the PCS union in Balham face job losses and redundancies if the office closure goes ahead.

The ballot was set to finish at noon next Tuesday.

## TRANSPORT

**Fights for pay and rail safety**

WORKERS ON East Midlands Trains walked out last Saturday as part of their ongoing battle against bosses' attacks on pay and terms and conditions.

The RMT union members also announced a further strike day for Saturday of next week.

They are fighting attacks on their pay and working conditions from bosses at Stagecoach.

WORKERS AT Merseyrail have announced six fresh strike dates to hammer home the message to “keep the guards on the train”.

The RMT union members are engaged in a long-running dispute over bosses' attempts to roll out more driver only operated (DOO) services.

RMT said the “company has

failed to deliver on the crucial issue of a safe method of train dispatching” despite a deal last September.

Workers are set to walk out on 24 August, 3, 5, 30 September and 2, 4 October.

WORKERS ON the Cross Country train line began a four-day overtime ban from Thursday of last week.

The RMT union members are battling company-wide changes imposed by franchise operator Arriva.

It also said the firm held negotiations outside of the collective bargaining agreement.

Mick Cash, RMT general secretary, said Arriva had “thrown established practices out of the window and attempted to undermine a recognised trade union”.

## AIRPORTS

**Heathrow strikes grounded**

A PLANNED strike at Heathrow Airport was grounded for talks at the eleventh hour.

Around 4,000 workers, all members of the Unite union, were set to begin a 48-hour strike from Monday of this week.

The security guards, firefighters, engineers, passenger service operatives and passenger service drivers are fighting for a rate of pay comparable with other airport workers doing similar jobs.

Unite says pay disparities see airport security guards hired after 2014 earning up to £6,000 less than those

who have worked there longer. Strikes are planned for 23 and 24 August.

SECURITY WORKERS at London Gatwick airport were set to strike for 48 hours from Saturday.

The 130 Unite union members voted by 95 percent to strike over pay.

STRIKES AT London Stansted Airport have failed to take off after Easyjet workers voted to accept a new pay offer.

The Unite union members voted in favour of the 13 percent pay rise for most workers.

## BUSES

AROUND 900 bus drivers in South Yorkshire have won a revised pay offer.

Unite union members threatened to walk out for 24-hour stints.

STRIKES ON Edinburgh's buses were suspended last week after bosses came up with a new offer.

Some 1,700 drivers were due to walk out at Lothian Buses over allegations of a

bullying management and hostile culture.

Their Unite union rep said workers have “longstanding procedural agreements that were regularly breached”.

But two days before the planned walkout management came forward with new proposals.

The drivers voted on proposals with the result not known as Socialist Worker went to press.



# REVOLT GROWS IN HONG KONG

by SADIE ROBINSON

**DEMONSTRATORS ARE trying to “foment revolution” in Hong Kong according to the city’s leader Carrie Lam.**

Protesters took part in mass protests and road blocks in several parts of Hong Kong on Monday, the fourth consecutive day of big demonstrations.

It was also the day of a general strike—the first in Hong Kong in half a century.

The Hong Kong Confederation of Trade Unions estimates that 350,000 workers joined the strike.

## Widespread

The Metro system came to a standstill as protesters “enforced” the strike by blocking train doors.

Workers in the civil service, advertising, finance, construction and retail joined the action. Several said they organised on the messaging app Telegram.

The Washington Post newspaper reported, “Even the happiest place on Earth was not immune. Dozens



PROTESTERS IN Hong Kong defend themselves from clouds of tear gas

of workers at Hong Kong Disneyland went on strike, disrupting rides.”

Disneyland worker Alice Tam told the newspaper that workers “have a responsibility to do this”.

Over 200 flights were cancelled as air traffic controllers called in sick.

Ken Kwok, an operations worker at Hong Kong Airlines, said 400 workers at his airline joined it. He

said it would have an impact because “the airport is the most important piece of infrastructure to the government”.

The strike defied government repression. Dozens of people who had called for it

were arrested overnight last Sunday. And many strikers risked the sack or other punishments from their bosses.

The strike also took place despite opposition from some official unions. The

pro-government Hong Kong Federation of Railway Trade Unions last week urged its members not to walk out.

The action follows over two months of mass protests against a new law that would allow the extradition of suspects to mainland China.

## Opponents

This would allow it to target political opponents in Hong Kong.

The movement against the law has grown into a bigger fight. Demonstrators now demand more democracy, an inquiry into policing, an amnesty for all arrested protesters and the resignation of Lam.

Protesters have also faced attacks from groups of masked men, while on Monday two cars rammed into demonstrators.

But the movement has refused to be silenced—and is showing the power that ordinary people have when they fight back together.

## More online

For more go to [www.socialistworker.co.uk](http://www.socialistworker.co.uk)

## ANALYSIS

## ‘The mass movement is at a critical moment’—eyewitness from Hong Kong

by LAM CHILEUNG, revolutionary socialist in Hong Kong

**AFTER NEARLY two months of protests, Hong Kong’s mass movement has reached a critical moment.**

The movement has been preparing for strikes that began this Monday.

The attempt at this political strike is significant—as there hasn’t been one since the strike wave against British colonial rule in 1967.

And it comes at a time when cracks are appearing within the ruling class. The Liberal



Lam Chi Leung

Party, a big business party that supports the Chinese regime, has been forced to call for the resignation of Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam.

The chief executive is appointed by China, which rules it as a “special administrative region”.

The Liberals have also come out in favour of an independent investigation into police violence at the end of June.

This is the result of pressure from below.

At the same time Carrie Lam still refuses to fully withdraw the suspended Extradition Bill. The draconian law, which

sparked off the protests in June, would make it easier for the Chinese regime to extradite people.

Yet, while clear differences are emerging within the government, they have not reached the point of the open split.

## Discredit

The government hopes to discredit the demonstrators as a riotous mob.

But, despite its best efforts, public opinion has not been significantly reversed.

Some demonstrators have realised that they need to unite with the

masses on the Chinese mainland.

They distribute leaflets to tourists from mainland China to explain the purpose of the movement.

However, there are also weaknesses in the mass movement.

Demonstrators are easily tempted by police to attack sensitive buildings, incurring greater repression.

There is also a far right threat.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) regime is backing Lam and the police force to the hilt.

This raises questions about how to take the

movement forward.

The socialist left in Hong Kong, which isn’t aligned with the CCP regime, fully supports political strikes.

Protesters, trade unions, student unions and social movements must combine into a joint action committee to lead the struggle.

Through the action committee, the power of the workers and movements will converge.

And this would establish the mass self-organisation that can take on the power of the ruling class.

Longer version at [bit.ly/HongKongCritical](http://bit.ly/HongKongCritical)